

Assemblyman
PAUL KORETZ
Forty-second Assembly District



proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks

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Contact: Bart Broome
415-203-7924 (cell)
CALPIRG: Steve Blackledge
916-448-4516 x108

Schwarzenegger Vetoes Textbook Rental

Sacramento - AB 2678, authored by Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), was vetoed today by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The bill was sponsored by the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) and would have provided a roadmap for California public colleges and universities to establish textbook rental services as a means to reduce costs for students.

"The Governor's veto is a setback for textbook rental and for California college students who now spend an average of \$900 per year on books. This veto increases the chances that textbook rental services at California colleges will be financially unsound and lacking in appropriate protections for students, faculty, and administrators," said Assemblyman Koretz.

In his veto announcement, Schwarzenegger said the bill "would allow additional fees to be assessed to all students, even those not using the program, in order to keep a textbook rental service financially self sustaining." Among the 20 colleges and universities in the U.S. with textbook rental programs, none require students to pay fees if they decide not to rent their books.¹ Koretz disputed the Governor's interpretation of his bill.

"The AB 2678 veto reflects a basic misunderstanding of the textbook rental issue. In the few schools where participation in text rental is mandatory, students are allowed a credit for fees paid toward the purchase of their books. This bill left the decision of how fees would be levied at the campus level where it belongs; and it guaranteed students the right to purchase the books that they rent," said Koretz.

AB 2678 and a CALPIRG study on textbook costs have sparked discussions about textbook rental at campuses across the state and the nation. The bill outlined a process for establishing textbook rental services that would have required sign-off from the student association, administrators, and faculty. It also would have capped textbook rental fees at 50 percent of the cost of purchasing books. At schools where textbook rental programs are in place, the yearly costs to students range from \$130 to \$240 per year. The CALPIRG study found that California college students pay an average of \$898 per year for textbooks.

"Governor Schwarzenegger and his advisors should go back and review their college math books, because the textbook rental bill would have saved money for college students," said Steve Blackledge, Legislative Director for CALPIRG, the sponsor of the Koretz measure. "That's the kind of math that every politician should embrace."
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¹ Eastern Illinois University's rental service offers a rental fee credit towards the purchase of the book for graduate students. For undergraduates they offer low sales prices for books that allow all their students to save money whether they rent or buy their textbooks.